

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF THE GREAT CONFLICT DISCUSSED

WHY DO WE THINK ABOUT THE WAR?

Early Peace Predicted Because of the Magnitude of the Struggle—Lessons for Democracy Seen—Has Christianity Failed?

THE SUN herewith publishes another page of war opinions selected from the great number with which it has been favored by its readers. For the diverse views THE SUN takes no responsibility, endeavoring solely to present such letters as may be interesting to its readers of all shades of opinion and without regard to nationality. Its regret is that exigencies of space prevent the publication of all letters it has received. The leading letter, by Maurice Leon, legal adviser to the French Government, was written at the instigation of Frenchmen in public and in private life.

HAS CHRISTIANITY FAILED IN ITS MISSION?

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: The present European war clearly establishes the fact, to wit, that humanity and civilization are in a name only, and as long as nations think that they can call themselves Christian nations without being a Christian nation in fact, all efforts toward the establishment of permanent peace must be utterly in vain, as is so palpably in evidence at this time.

I have been told that the French people did not expect a strong religion, and that the English and the same is said for the German people. They all know that nothing can be gained by war, that the contrary was means destruction of what has been built up in peace times and that the loss caused alone in human lives can never be estimated. How many men in the prime of their youth and early manhood are killed who might have furthered culture and civilization a hundredfold, had they lived, not to mention the great material losses, some of which can never be made good.

Now if the English, French, Belgian and German people actually did not desire to war against each other would they combined, if they had sincerely tried, not have been strong enough to exert sufficient pressure on Austria and Russia to prevent these countries from fighting each other?

The instance of this terrible and inhuman war brings in a strong relief the deplorable, unfortunate fact that within the long period of approximately 2,000 years the Church founded on the name of Christ has utterly failed to teach the teachings of its divine founder, and to translate them into our lives and the lives of the so-called Christian nations. Otherwise this murderous war as properly referred to by one of the leading metropolitan dailies as "the unspeakable crime of the age" would not be raging now, devouring thousands and tens of thousands of human life and devastating peaceful towns and villages. Surely there must be something radically wrong with the Christian Church and its work, or we could not at the end of nearly 2,000 A. D. have such a heartrending condition of affairs, such an appalling wholesale slaughter of men as the world is now compelled to witness.

Nations are built up of individuals, and nations, therefore, cannot be better than the elements that consist of. If the Church had produced real Christianity and had taught and practiced the human brotherhood, as Christ taught it, by His own example, then the great nations of this world would be Christian in reality and not in name only and a war such as now in progress would be impossible, even unthinkable. Civilization, with a veneer of Christianity only, is a sham and I charge that, in the last analysis, the Church will have to bear the burden of blame for this awful slaughter of human beings. ALFRED MULLER.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 31.

GERMANY WILL WANT PEACE IN THREE WEEKS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir, I regret very much indeed, as many American citizens must, the "special plea" of the German Ambassador, Von Bernstorff, in endeavoring to define Germany's position in this war. American newspapers probably keep their readers better informed on all sides of this war than newspapers of any other country in the world, and therefore they are fully able to judge of the merits and demerits of the case, and it hardly seems consistent with the dignity of an Ambassador to make such a statement in the press to create public impression in this war. The dignified attitude of the German Ambassador is in striking contrast with the attitude of the German Ambassador.

While at the present writing the situation does not look encouraging for the allies, I believe firmly that the war will be at an end before the first of November. You must remember that it is being waged on such a gigantic scale that there was no precedent in history to base any solid opinions upon, and the very magnitude of the undertaking must necessitate its being one of short duration.

The strategy of the allies has from the beginning been to harass and attack Germany for the purpose of discovering the full strength of her forces, also for the purpose of raising time to enable the Russians to invade Germany, which they are now doing with a vengeance. You must remember that up to the present time the Germans have not made anything like the progress in covering French territory that they had expected to, and the German Emperor's dinner engagements in Paris must necessarily be postponed for some time, if not indefinitely. I believe that within three weeks the Russian army will be in Berlin or so close to it as to compel the German Emperor to withdraw a very large part of his forces from France to prevent the loss of his empire. When he does this then the allies will again assume the offensive and push the Germans back to their own territory, and in this manner, attacked on both sides with more than probable cooperation of Italy with the allies, Germany will be compelled to either surrender or sue for peace.

Already my opinion is being manifested in Austria, not only among inhabitants but in the army itself, and all these elements would appear to be almost too much for even Emperor William to overcome. This may be a wild prediction, but I believe it to be a true one. L. C. T.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 31.

SAYS RUSSIAN AGITATION DROVE AUSTRIA TO WAR

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: If I were to follow my personal inclination I would prefer not to write or say one word about this terrible war which is now raging the whole of Europe asunder. But as a native Hungarian I feel in duty bound to stand up to the defense of my native land and to all I can to convince a doubting public that Austria-Hungary was driven into this war, nay,

draggled into it by provocation such as no other country would have endured. Not by the foul assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his consort, be it remembered, for that is the usual reason given—but by the systematic agitation and conspiracy on the part of Russia, which has always did the small nationalities of the Balkans as agents provocateurs.

I shall not attempt to defend Austria. I think that in her policies and in her dealing with the various nationalities of the dual monarchy always been mistaken, but when it comes to a choice between Austria and Russia there can be no question as to which is the more just and the more reasonable. The Russian Government carelessly placed all over the globe, where Slavdom is, the seeds of discord and hate, and the entire Slav population of Austria-Hungary vote on the proposition whether they desire to remain with the dual monarchy or whether they want to incorporate into the empire of the autocrat of all the Russias the proposition would be voted down 100 to 1 in favor of Austria-Hungary. The Slav is not oppressed in Austria, if anything at all, more than in Russia, as anything as it is German. In fact, the Germans of Austria have had reason only too often to complain that they are being discriminated against in the dual monarchy.

The American press, with a unanimity which is amazing, sides with Serbia against Austria. In fact, seems to favor the pan-Slavist movement of Russia. Who the sympathy for the cause of Russia and Serbia in the American press is caused by the self-evident and natural feelings of sympathy for England and France, the allies of Russia, or by the desire to ignore, I am unable to state. But I do know that for many years the columns of the American press have been open to the clever pan-Slavist agitation of Russia and its henchmen.

Very frequent reference is made to the condition existing in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, and charges are made that the whole country is seething with rebellion. This is utterly false. Whatever it may exist is due to the economic conditions. While the Slavs of Austria and of Hungary are constantly fighting for the purpose of gaining advantages for their race, they fight in the same manner as the different political parties of a country fight each other, not for the purpose of disintegrating the Dual Monarchy, but for political advantages, pure and simple within the monarchy.

Take for instance the case of the Croats and Slavonians, they are the same race as the Serbians, but if the Croats hate anybody in the world it is the Serbians, and they would rather see the country except from the face of the globe than to be incorporated in a greater Serbian empire or in the holy Russian empire, at the head of which is the semi-divine Nicholas. The same can be said of the Czechs, of the Poles, of the Slovaks and of all other Slav nationalities of Austria and Hungary. And as the Russians are concerned, who are a Latin race pure and simple, they hate the Slav in spite of the fact that the whole of the Rumanian people, like the Greeks, are members of the Greek Orthodox faith.

The Austro-Hungarian monarchy has 15,000,000 Germans, 10,000,000 Magyars and 8,000,000 Rumanians and about 20,000,000 Slavs, the large majority of whom are either loyal to the Austrian or loyal to the Hungarian crown. It is not preposterous for any one, and particularly if this one is a Russian or Serbian, that they want to incorporate their Slav brethren from the Austrian or the Hungarian "volks" I do not agree and have did in its medieval way of handling its several nationalities and its diplomacy or policy in general, but in the name of common sense give me Austria a thousand times rather than the mere thought of a possibility of having Russia, Austria, with its history of centuries, has done something for civilization; Hungary, with its history of centuries, has done something for civilization; Mohammedan and has paid the price with its blood for 200 years. Are they not entitled to some gratitude or acknowledgment of the civilized world? Should they be sacrificed to Russian barbarism? Are they not entitled to a fair trial, if from no one else at least from the American press?

MARCUS BEATON.
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 4.

LESSON FOR AMERICANS IN EUROPEAN CONFLICT

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir, I am intensely interested in your recent editorial suggesting that "Democracy is at stake" in the issues of the European war. "Lack of authority to centralize power in emergencies" has been and is a weakness of popular government, but I should like to emphasize the point that it is not an inherent or necessary weakness. It is true that "no American can watch the next few months of European history without concluding that the lesson is not a reversion to monarchy or oligarchy, whoever wins in Europe, but to learn how to establish and maintain an efficient government in a democracy; and this can be done only by recognizing that there is just as much authority and power to rule in a democracy as in any form of autocracy."

Let me repeat and insist therefore that "lack of authority and power" is not inherent in democracy but a defect in practice only, because of a failure on the part of the people in a democracy to realize the necessity of making popular government just as authoritative, powerful and efficient as shall be found necessary to secure the "general welfare" the proclaimed purpose of the American democracy. In other words fear of enforcing the law, one of the greatest weaknesses of democracy in this country, is there not an historic basis for this statement, which is worth careful consideration?

Has not fear of applying and enforcing governmental authority been a great defect in popular government in this country? Has not the United States of America a young yet, as great nations go, and we are not yet free from a certain dread of the power of the Federal Government?

The real object of American revolt from English control was not to get rid of a king, but to get rid of the injustices of power from inheriting king to chosen representative, there should have been a full transfer of the power to the authority of the people's government. It is just as necessary that chosen representatives of the people shall govern as that the king should govern.

The future of the American government rests very largely upon a clear appreciation of this fact. Every American executive and every official has taken an oath to sustain the Constitution and to preserve the Union. He is true to his oath, without fear or favor. Every American citizen has sworn allegiance and this means allegiance to authorized representatives of the people, and to the Constitution. Let every American citizen realize this truth and live up to it! The need of such loyalty is recognized instantly and effectively in times of crisis. Let it be equally recognized as a working rule in times of peace, and there will be less of disturbance and riot and war.

It is particularly in times of crisis that Americans shall be clear headed and loyal to these sound principles of effective democracy, because of the complex civilization which now confronts us. Even in times of peace, the American citizen must be clear headed and loyal to these sound principles of effective democracy, because of the complex civilization which now confronts us. Even in times of peace, the American citizen must be clear headed and loyal to these sound principles of effective democracy, because of the complex civilization which now confronts us.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I have read the article addressed to you by "An Old Reader" in the issue of September 4. At first reading it must tend to arouse the ire of any German reading it, but after a second reading one is moved to pity for this poor unfortunate. I should very much like to see those "barbarians" to whom he refers and learn something of the power which they have wielded and the authority with which they have been invested, for it is only fair that they should be given the same consideration as we have been given in the case, for how else could the writer have observed these two phases of a German's life?

But let us say these particular Germans are as he says, "barbarians," it is possible for any nationality to be the direct opposite of that of the whole. However, would the impressions which we have received from the acts of these few give us the liberty of judging that nationality as a whole? Or do they permit us to express our opinion of that nationality as they have been expressed by this writer? All fair minded persons will immediately answer in the negative.

But as he has judged so let us judge him. Has he himself not exhibited that "barbaric and cringing under subjection" nature which he so bitterly decries? Has he not developed a "barbarian" in every one of us? Let us see how he has lived for years with "barbarians," must we assume that he is afraid to let a "barbarian" live? T. H. LEINHEIMER.
POTTSVILLE, PA., SEPTEMBER 3.

LET MILITARISM VENT ITSELF IN PRESENT WAR

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Yesterday the German Ambassador made a bid for peace and today THE SUN follows it with an editorial asking, "Is there still any time for peace?" In view of THE SUN's sterling Americanism in the past this is a surprising proposition. THE SUN asks if France is not a democracy, if it is not a democracy, if the German army has not already shown itself the overwhelming military power of the Continent. At the present moment, yes.

But why does THE SUN want peace declared at the moment when France is humiliated and when the German military power is at the zenith of its triumphs? Must France lose more provinces and be forced to pay another indemnity? Must Belgium and Luxembourg and perhaps Holland be yielded up to Germany's insatiable greed?

True Americans will never forget that when they were fighting for independence the German States sent Hessians to try to crush Washington, while France sent Lafayette with an army that rendered us invaluable aid in our struggle. England is now sending an expeditionary army to help France. This is one of many reasons why nearly all Americans want the present war fought to a finish so that the German peril has already been removed. If Germany were allowed at this moment to dictate the terms of peace, it would be, as Winston Churchill, First Lord of the British Admiralty, said last Saturday, "the victory of the blood and iron military school whose doctrines and principles will then have received a successful and terrible vindication." The vindication for the Prussian military autocracy would make Pan-Germanism a far greater peril for American interests than Pan-Slavism would ever be.

man front are not some of the women and children of whom we have heard in dispatches originating from neutral countries. The German Foreign Office takes the same opportunity to insult the American public the *Populaire*, for which it vouches as a "respectable paper" and which it says "calls London a factory comparable with Shanghai." The German Foreign Office, its representatives and friends, have been engaged in calling the whole world a liar. The allied Governments have been called liars, and American Press has been called a liar and now London is called a liar except Germany, the centre of all truth.

It is interesting to recall at this time the verdict of history on the Emser telegram "edited" by Bismarck and which led to the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. History has established the double falsity of that despatch in that it suppressed what was true and suggested what was false. When it came to decide whether it was the French or the German who were not actually the aggressors, Count Bernstorff's colleague at Paris, Baron von Schoen, delivered at the French Foreign Office a long statement giving alleged instances of violations of French territory by French troops. Each and every instance was invented. The French authorities had withdrawn all their troops ten kilometers inside the French border. But, not least, they knew their respective districts and had the good will of the negroes, who thoroughly hated the Boers. These excellent troops, especially efficient for home service, the English commander soon sent to the Orange Free State, to new surroundings, entirely inimical and where other colonials or old English regulars would have answered as well. They were replaced in their home districts, first, by Australians, and later on by green English troops, the latter all good men, courageous to a fault, but many of them unable either to handle a gun or straddle a horse.

Many of the officers were as green as their youngest men. I remember one big Englishman, a "commandant" of a district, who a year or two before had been clerking for Sir Thomas Linton. He made a laughing stock of himself by issuing an order to house owners to prevent their cocks from crowing, as this might give the Boers a signal, and to exercise the already overdriven oxen every day, so as to keep them in good working order.

It was easy to detect all the "newly arrived" for a great many months by their awkward ways and I never saw any effort made to drill them in their camps before they were sent to the front, where they made good target practice for the opposing Boers when looking about surprised trying to find out where the whizzing bullets came from. They never reached the efficiency of the other Colonial nor of the older soldiers. All in all, the different Colonials did most of the fighting during the entire war.

Lord Kitchener will learn during the next few months that battles will be won by superior drill, by superior numbers but by superior drill.

Russia is about in the same position today as she was at Putova. It will take three or four months before the German, Russia had been in a plight after her war with Japan. There could hardly have been any good drill masters won the war, but do we Americans want Germany to dominate the world, the same as she has dominated Europe?

Herman A. Metz, former Comptroller of New York City, is reported in today's *Sun* as boasting that "Germany has licked France," that "Germany will rather in the French and English colonies, the Congo Free State and all," and in a few years there will be the same war over again." Now that this war of nations has started, let it go on until the participants are willing to agree to disarmament, so that the curse of military may be banished and the resulting peace be a permanent temporary truce.

ORANGE, N. J., September 1. G. T. P.

GERMAN RESOURCES IN MEN EQUAL TO RUSSIA'S

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Lord Kitchener's opinion that Germany would get weaker, the allies stronger, the more the war would be prolonged is either a soothing syrup for home consumption or an illusion.

In South Africa during the last six months of the Boer war and closely observed the condition of the different bodies of troops there in service. The most efficient of them were the District Mounted Troops of Cape Colony because they were all far above average intelligence, perfectly self-reliant, used to handling arms and excellent riders. Last, but not least, they knew their respective districts and had the good will of the negroes, who thoroughly hated the Boers. These excellent troops, especially efficient for home service, the English commander soon sent to the Orange Free State, to new surroundings, entirely inimical and where other colonials or old English regulars would have answered as well. They were replaced in their home districts, first, by Australians, and later on by green English troops, the latter all good men, courageous to a fault, but many of them unable either to handle a gun or straddle a horse.

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felt sympathy. They have been doing their best to prove to the readers of the German press that the German army is being defeated at all points, when as a matter of fact the German advance is proceeding on schedule time. And now these editors have decided to bar all wireless news and print only the statements issued by the French and British war offices. Nobody will object to this, because if you are going to be a partisan you may as well be a thorough one.

But the utter failure of the allies to check the German advance ought not to prevent the editors of the *Telegraph* from printing correct English news and print only the statements issued by the French and British war offices. Nobody will object to this, because if you are going to be a partisan you may as well be a thorough one.

The *Evening Telegram*, like the *Herald*, seems to be losing its grip.

NEWARK, September 2.

REST GERMAN CAUSE ON JUDGMENT OF U. S.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Something be done to relieve the suffering American public from the daily pleading, whining and at times gloating outpourings of the so-called German Americans—the only thing American about them appearing to be their residence in our country, which they are earnestly endeavoring to exploit for themselves. It is noticeable either in a quarrel between individuals or nations that the most voluble protests proceed from the one most in fault.

Why, if the German cause is so just, can it not be rested upon the good judgment of the American mind? The allies are apparently willing to do so; they neither whine for sympathy nor tell the American nation what it ought to think nor try to secure us with bugaboos, although in view of the recent conduct of German warfare it would be easy to invent "a specter." When useless and horrible sufferings can be inflicted by a nation, and its Ambassador so far forget his professional reticence and dignity as to boast to high heaven and grandiloquent words to the surrounding nations and how it will "make them pay," most of us feel we would prefer to take our chances with a "young peril" rather than with the German race.

As a nation with a fairly decent regard for truth we might be pardoned if we were to affiliate with a nation which fulfills its pledges and does not repudiate its solemn obligations as "a piece of paper."

We don't need to be told who began this war, nor for what purpose it is waged, neither do we forget the long years of preparation for it. Our memories are good. Theoretical waving of swords to high heaven and grandiloquent words no longer move us. They hardly affect the small boy on the fence.

The gilt and tinsel have dropped away from this war and now the human nations no longer consider it glorious or even decent unless waged as brave little Belgium has done in defence of home. So neither will we allow this horrible conflict the man responsible for it will go down for all time branded as a Cain.

PASSAIC, AUGUST 28. S. T. WOOD.

CRITICISES NEWSPAPER BARRING CERTAIN NEWS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: The editors of the *Evening Telegram* are fairly entitled to our profound and hearty



East Broadway and Jefferson St., NEW YORK

Activities
Classes in English to Foreigners
Vocational Schools
Classes in Cooking, Millinery and Dressmaking
Classes and Lectures in American History and Civics
Classes in Physical Training
Civil Service Classes
Classes in Telegraphy
Naturalization Bureau
Information Bureau
Legal Aid Bureau
Desertion Bureau
Reading Room
Clubs for Boys and Girls
Social Rooms for Boys and Girls
Special Rooms for Adults
"Fresh-Air" Outings
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Summer Home for Girls
Roof Garden
Educational Moving Picture Shows and Concerts
Lectures and Meetings
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Indoor Playground
Free Bath
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People's Synagogue
Special Services for the High Holy Days
Lectures on Moral Topics
Children's Sabbath Service
Young People's Synagogue
Classes in Ethics
Bible Story Hours
Penny Provident Fund

THESE are some of the activities of The Educational Alliance at its Main Building, East Broadway and Jefferson St., at 309 East 6th St., at 307 Henry St., all open from 9 A. M. to 10:30 P. M.

The Educational Alliance also conducts a Boys' Camp at Storm King on the Hudson and a Girls' Summer Home at Oceanic, New Jersey.

This Work Entails An Annual Expenditure of Over \$118,000, Derived From Endowments, Legacies, Gifts and Annual Subscriptions.

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10,933 attended our various classes, 324,862 came to our 424 lectures, performances, concerts, &c.; 298,886 enjoyed our roof; 1,397 boys and girls were enrolled in our clubs; 100 persons daily applied for help in our Legal Aid Bureau; 3,587 pupils attended our School of Religious Work and Classes in Ethics.

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The character of the work done at the Legal Aid Bureau of the Educational Alliance is alone sufficiently extensive and socializing to justify its existence as an independent institution.

The Special Summer Activities of the Educational Alliance, such as its Game Rooms, Outings to Parks and Beaches, Roof Garden, Auditorium Lectures, Summer Classes, Special Summer Trade School, &c., are planned and maintained with a view to meeting the special Summer needs in order that the moral and physical menaces of the streets may be counteracted.

Stress is laid upon the Summer Trade School and Vocational Classes, with their particular appeal to the Immigrant and the practical benefit an employer as well as employee in providing training that takes the place of the period of shop apprenticeship. A gratifying response came from the neighborhood when the Educational Alliance made provision for the method of self-help.

With More Funds a Far Larger Number Could Be Benefitted and Our Facilities Extended. Will You Aid?

Board of Directors of the Educational Alliance

This appeal is of vital urgency because unfortunate conditions abroad will impose upon the Educational Alliance extensive burdens and severely strain its resources.

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